



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5388

February Session, 2010

* ____HB05388HS____032310____ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS AND
BILINGUAL SERVICE OFFICERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Veterans'
2 Affairs shall conduct a study of homeless female veterans in the state.
3 The study shall include an analysis of the number of such veterans and
4 information regarding shelter options and resources for such veterans.
5 Not later than January 1, 2011, the Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs
6 shall report the department's findings to the select committee of the
7 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
8 affairs, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
9 general statutes.

10 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 27-102l of the general statutes is
11 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
12 *passage*):

13 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a
14 veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of
15 veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members.
16 The unit shall have a staff of not less than eight men and women,
17 including six service officers, and clerical personnel. The unit head and
18 the service officers shall be veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or
19 veterans who were awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for

20 service by the armed forces. At least one of the service officers shall be
 21 a woman having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women
 22 veterans, who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and,
 23 effective upon the next opening of a service officer position occurring
 24 on or after July 1, [2007] 2010, at least [one] two of the service officers
 25 shall be [an individual] individuals having bilingual proficiency in
 26 English and Spanish, within existing authorized positions. Each service
 27 officer shall successfully complete a course in veterans' benefits within
 28 one year of commencement of employment and shall be assigned to
 29 one of the five congressional districts of the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	27-1021(b)

VA *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* HS

HS *Joint Favorable*